

THE INHALERS OF DR JOHN SNOW: HIS MARKS AND HIS SCORE

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Within a matter of days of anaesthesia's introduction into Britain, Dr John Snow, capitalising on his earlier scientific training and knowledge, designed an efficient inhaler for giving ether. Subsequently, improved versions of this, and other inhalers designed by Snow, helped to ensure his (and others') success in the administration of anaesthetic agents. He also developed various methods for giving medicated inhalations. This paper will review some of the features of the twenty inhaling devices invented or used by Snow, and of the agents which he administered with them.

The devices can be classified as follows:

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| <p>I. 'ACCURATE' ANAESTHETIC DEVICES</p> <p><u>a. Ether Inhalers:</u></p> <p>1 - Mark I</p> <p>2 - Mark II</p> <p>3 - Mark III</p> <p>4 - Mark IV</p> <p><u>b. Chloroform Inhalers</u></p> <p>5 'The Large' - Mark I</p> <p>6 - Mark II</p> <p>7 - Mark III</p> <p>8 <u>c. Amylene Inhaler</u></p> <p><u>d. Controlled Atmosphere Devices</u></p> <p>9 - Experimental bottles</p> <p>10 - Prefilled bag</p> | <p>II. 'INACCURATE' ANAESTHETIC DEVICES</p> <p>11 'The Small' Chloroform Inhaler</p> <p>12 Sponge</p> <p>13 Simple cloths - Towel</p> <p>14 - Handkerchief</p> <p>15 - Napkin</p> <p>16 Bottles</p> <p>III. MEDICINAL INHALERS</p> <p>17 The 'Larger' - Heated</p> <p>18 - Unheated</p> <p> The 'Smaller'</p> <p>19 Woulfe's Bottle</p> <p>20 Simple Straw</p> |
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Dr. Ellis did not wish to publish a full paper in this Proceedings but consented to the use of this brief abstract. Ed.